

**Nebraska Workforce Investment Board
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Chief Industries, Inc.
300 Canopy Street, Suite 200 – Lincoln, NE
January 9, 2015
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (CST)

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

The meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board (NWIB) Executive Committee was called to order on January 9, 2015 at approximately 9:31 a.m. by the Chair, Mr. Mark Moravec.

Agenda Item #2 – Roll Call

NWIB Executive Committee members present (10):

Joseph Acierno	Michael Geary	Michelle Olson
John Albin	Dacia Kruse	Carol Swigart
Dennis Baack	Mark Moravec	
Mathew “Bud” Fleischer	Don Nordell	

NWIB members absent (2):

Matt Blomstedt	Becky Stitt
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Other Guests in Attendance (8):

Shirley Carlson	Heartland Workforce Solutions
Seth Fager	Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training Administrator
Amanda Felton	Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training
Mary Findlay	Nebraska Department of Labor – Labor Market Information
Joan Modrell	Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training Director
Jan Norlander-Jensen	City of Lincoln – Urban Development
Stan Odenthal	Nebraska Department of Labor – Employment & Training
Erin Porterfield	Heartland Workforce Solutions

Agenda Item #3 – Notice of Publication

Amanda Felton, recorder for the NWIB Executive Committee, stated that notice of a public meeting was both posted and advertised in accordance with the Public Meetings Law. Notices were marked as exhibits and made part of the formal record of the meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – Approval of Minutes

Chair Moravec entertained a motion regarding the meeting minutes from April 11, 2014. Bud Fleischer moved to approve the April 11, 2014 minutes as presented; Brad Schroeder seconded. No discussion ensued. Motion carried by majority voice vote.

Chair Moravec stated that dates, agendas, minutes and handouts for the full board, as well as the Executive Committee and the Performance Committee, can be found on the website at www.dol.nebraska.gov under the heading “Workforce Investment Act.”

The Chair also took this time to congratulate John Albin on his official appointment as Commissioner for the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL). Joseph Acierno was also congratulated on his appointment as acting CEO for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and was welcomed to the Board.

Agenda Item #5 – New Business

a. *Local Area Plan Modification*

The Chair invited Mr. Stan Odenthal, Program Coordinator with the Nebraska Department of Labor, forward to discuss the Local Plan modification correction for the Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment Area (GNWIA). Mr. Odenthal explained that a fund transfer for the GNWIA was left off of the agenda from the previous full NWIB meeting on October 31, 2014. To correct for that omission, the fund transfer was up for approval at the current meeting of the Executive Committee. The GNWIA requested approval of a modification correction to their local plan. The modification correction consisted of a transfer of \$61,000 from PY14 Dislocated Worker (DLW) funds to PY14 Adult funds effective 08/11/2014. Mr. Odenthal let the Committee know that the State had reviewed the request and recommended approval of the modification.

Chair Moravec entertained a motion. It was moved by Dennis Baack, and seconded by Michael Geary to approve the Greater Nebraska Local Area modification as presented. No discussion ensued.

Roll Call vote follows:

FOR: (8)

Dennis Baack
Mathew “Bud” Fleischer
Michael Geary

Dacia Kruse
Mark Moravec
Don Nordell

Michelle Olson
Carol Swigart

ABSTAIN: (2)

Joseph Acierno John Albin

AGAINST: (0)

ABSENT: (2)

Matt Blomstedt Becky Stitt

MOTION CARRIED

b. *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Transition*

At this time, the Chair gave the floor to Ms. Joan Modrell, Director of the Employment and Training office with the Nebraska Department of Labor. She began by discussing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, or the Opportunity Act (OA) for short. Ms. Modrell alerted the members that the Regulations that were expected to be released on January 16, 2015 had been postponed to spring of 2015 with a specific date to be determined. While, the regulations won't be available, she assured the Committee that the NDOL was moving forward in the preparations.

Ms. Modrell continued by informing the members of the four core partners that include Adult Basic Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Wegner Peyser, and the Workforce Investment

Act (WIA). There will be many opportunities and challenges, three in particular, that were covered in the day's discussion. They included Sector Strategies, Economic Region Planning, and Board Structure. Ms. Modrell began with discussing the importance of Sector Strategies.

An important element of Sector Strategies that was covered was employer engagement. It is impossible to design education, training opportunities, or secondary or post-secondary career plans without employer input. The goal is to determine what is valuable to the employers and use it as a structure for future plans and ideas. Education involvement was another element that must be included in our Sector Strategy planning. What is taught in the classroom must connect to the world of work. Lastly, sector partnerships were also discussed as necessary for the success of Sector Strategies. All agencies involved must pull their resources to create the best opportunities for the people entering the workforce.

Ms. Modrell turned the Committee's attention to the subject of Economic Region Planning. The members were directed to the handout illustrating the boundaries of various statistical maps. Ms. Modrell discussed with the members the various options that the local areas have including the ability to grandfather in their current local area boundaries. This would mean that the local area would have to submit both a local area plan and a regional plan should more than one local area fall into a defined region. Another option would be for the local areas to realign their local area to reflect the other variables such as the Economic Regions.

The Committee members were encouraged to let the staff know of any other data that they feel would be relevant to moving forward in local area designations. The local areas need to be in place by July 1, 2016, but the sooner areas are established the more time the areas will have more time to plan and prepare. Mr. John Albin, Commissioner with the Nebraska Department of Labor, mentioned that some sort of regional component is required per the legislation. He emphasized that while there is no intent to force a change, but that it is encouraged for the local areas to re-evaluate how a change could benefit them.

Conversation moved on to Board Structure and how it will be effected under OA. Stan Odenthal reviewed the composition of the Board under the OA. A majority of the Board must be from the business sector, and must be from "in-demand" industries. The Board must also have at least 20% of its membership represent the workforce within the State including labor representatives nominated by labor federations and labor apprenticeships representatives. It would also be comprised of the lead state officer of the four core programs which are WIA, Vocational Rehabilitation, Wegner Peyser, and Adult and Basic Education. Additionally, the Board would need at least two Chief Elected Officials. Mr. Odenthal stated that the minimum number that the Board could have would be 17.

Discussion ensued amongst the members regarding the various changes of the Board. It was established that one individual could not serve as two required positions on the Board. There was also talk over the possibility that Community Colleges that offer apprenticeship programs could be considered part of the 20% labor requirement. There was also much discussion on the topic of "in-demand" industries and how it related to H3 jobs in Nebraska. Ms. Modrell agreed to provide more information regarding the H3 program at the next meeting.

c. Performance Committee Update

The Chair then invited Joan Modrell and Stan Odenthal to discuss progress with the Performance Committee. It was brought up for discussion by the Greater Lincoln local area that the state re-evaluate the distribution of the weights. Ms. Modrell let the Committee know that the Performance Committee has been reviewing the weights of distribution of Dislocated Worker (DLW) funds. She continued by stating that the weight criteria is determined by federal guidelines, but the percentage attributed to each weight is up to each State. Ms. Modrell also reminded the Committee that while the State provided the information requested, they do not determine how the weights are established.

Mr. Odenthal reviewed the information provided on the handouts. He talked about the Hold Harmless provision and how it would prevent any major drops in funding for any specific local area from one year to the next. Discussion ensued regarding the individuals of underemployed. It was agreed that this is an important factor, but the difficulty to find a way to collect reliable data on the subject.

Ms. Modrell moved on to the topic of Quarterly Performance. The state as a whole met or exceeded the negotiated standards for Adult and Youth programs and came very close to meeting standards in the DLW program.

d. Business and/or Partner Updates

Chair Moravec then invited the members to discuss what was happening in their areas. The business and/or partners gave a brief snapshot of conditions in their industry, business or agency and any new initiatives or trends.

Agenda Item #6 – Upcoming Meetings

Chair Moravec reminded the members of the Performance Committee meeting coming up on January 14, 2015 and the full NWIB meeting on January 23, 2015.

Agenda Item #7 – Adjournment

It was moved by Michael Geary to adjourn. Dennis Baack seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

01/16/2015

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